

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A thermoplastic molding composition, comprising a mixture of
 - (A) from 30 to 69% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C), of a methyl methacrylate polymer obtainable by polymerizing a mixture consisting of
 - (A1) from 90 to 100% by weight, based on (A), of methyl methacrylate, and
 - (A2) from 0 to 10% by weight, based on (A), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of acrylic acid, and
 - (B) from 30 to 69% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C), of a copolymer obtainable by polymerizing a mixture consisting of
 - (B1) from 75 to 88% by weight, based on (B), of a styrenic monomer and
 - (B2) from 12 to 25% by weight, based on (B), of a vinyl cyanide and
 - (C) from 1 to 40% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C), of a graft copolymer obtainable from
 - (C1) from 60 to 90% by weight, based on (C), of a core obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of
 - (C11) from 65 to 90% by weight, based on (C1), of a 1,3–diene and
 - (C12) from 10 to 35% by weight, based on (C1), of a styrenic monomer and
 - (C2) from 5 to 20% by weight, based on (C), of a first graft shell and
 - (C3) from 5 to 20% by weight, based on (C), of a second graft shell obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of
 - (C31) from 70 to 98% by weight, based on (C3), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and

(C32) from 2 to 30% by weight, based on (C3), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of acrylic acid

and

(D) if desired, customary additives in amounts of up to 20% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C),

with the proviso that the weight ratio of (C2) to (C3) is in the range from 2:1 to 1:2, wherein the first graft shell (C2) is obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C21) from 30 to 39% by weight, based on (C2), of a styrenic monomer,

(C22) from 61 to 70% by weight, based on (C2), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and

(C23) from 0 to 3% by weight, based on (C2), of a crosslinking monomer.

2. (Original) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index (n_D–C₂) of the first graft shell (C2) is greater than the refractive index (n_D–C₃) of the second graft shell (C3), and the refractive index (n_D–C₂C₃) of the overall graft shell is less than the refractive index (n_D–C₁) of the core (C1), and the magnitude of the difference of the refractive index (n_D–C) of the overall component (C) and the refractive index (n_D–AB) of the overall matrix of components (A) and (B) is less than or equal to 0.02, the refractive indices each being determined by the methods specified in the description.

3. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first graft shell (C2) is obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C21) from 30 to 35% by weight, based on (C2), of a styrenic monomer,

(C22) from 63 to 70% by weight, based on (C2), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of

methacrylic acid and

(C23) from 0 to 2% by weight, based on (C2), of a crosslinking monomer.

4. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic molding composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the first graft shell (C2) is obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C21) from 31 to 35% by weight, based on (C2), of a styrenic monomer,

(C22) from 63 to 68% by weight, based on (C2), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and

(C23) from 1 to 2% by weight, based on (C2), of a crosslinking monomer.

5. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic molding composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the difference between the refractive index (n_D–C₂C₃) of the overall graft shell of the graft copolymer C and the refractive index (n_D–C₁) of the core (C1) is less than 0.06, the refractive indices each being determined by the methods specified in the description.

6. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic molding composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the styrenic monomer used is styrene.

7. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic molding composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer (C) has a swelling index SI of from 10 to 40, the swelling index SI being determined by the methods specified in the description.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for producing thermoplastic molding compositions according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, which comprises

(A) from 30 to 69% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C), of a methyl methacrylate polymer obtainable by polymerizing a mixture consisting of

(A1) from 90 to 100% by weight, based on (A), of methyl methacrylate, and

(A2) from 0 to 10% by weight, based on (A), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of acrylic acid, and

(B) from 30 to 69% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C), of a copolymer obtainable by polymerizing a mixture consisting of

(B1) from 75 to 88% by weight, based on (B), of a styrenic monomer and

(B2) from 12 to 25% by weight, based on (B), of a vinyl cyanide

and

(C) from 1 to 40% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C), of a graft copolymer obtainable from

(C1) from 60 to 90% by weight, based on (C), of a core obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C11) from 65 to 90% by weight, based on (C1), of a 1,3–diene and

(C12) from 10 to 35% by weight, based on (C1), of a styrenic monomer

and

(C2) from 5 to 20% by weight, based on (C), of a first graft shell obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C21) from 30 to 39% by weight, based on (C2), of a styrenic monomer,

(C22) from 61 to 70% by weight, based on (C2), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and

(C23) from 0 to 3% by weight, based on (C2), of a crosslinking monomer

and

(C3) from 5 to 20% by weight, based on (C), of a second graft shell obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C31) from 70 to 98% by weight, based on (C3), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and

(C32) from 2 to 30% by weight, based on (C3), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of

acrylic acid

and

(D) if desired, customary additives in amounts of up to 20% by weight, based on the sum of components (A), (B) and (C),

with the proviso that the weight ratio of (C2) to (C3) is in the range from 2:1 to 1:2,

by mixing components (A), (B), (C) and, where present, (D) in the melt.

9. (Currently Amended) The use of the thermoplastic molding composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 for producing moldings.

10. (Currently Amended) A molding comprising the thermoplastic molding composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

11. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 2, wherein the first graft shell (C2) is obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C21) from 30 to 35% by weight, based on (C2), of a styrenic monomer,

(C22) from 63 to 70% by weight, based on (C2), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and

(C23) from 0 to 2% by weight, based on (C2), of a crosslinking monomer.

12. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 2, wherein the first graft shell (C2) is obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

(C21) from 31 to 35% by weight, based on (C2), of a styrenic monomer,

(C22) from 63 to 68% by weight, based on (C2), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and

(C23) from 1 to 2% by weight, based on (C2), of a crosslinking monomer.

13. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 3, wherein the first graft shell (C2) is obtainable by polymerizing a monomer mixture consisting of

- (C21) from 31 to 35% by weight, based on (C2), of a styrenic monomer,
- (C22) from 63 to 68% by weight, based on (C2), of a C₁–C₈–alkyl ester of methacrylic acid and
- (C23) from 1 to 2% by weight, based on (C2), of a crosslinking monomer.

14. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 2, wherein the magnitude of the difference between the refractive index (n_D–C₂C₃) of the overall graft shell of the graft copolymer C and the refractive index (n_D–C₁) of the core (C1) is less than 0.06, the refractive indices each being determined by the methods specified in the description.

15. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 3, wherein the magnitude of the difference between the refractive index (n_D–C₂C₃) of the overall graft shell of the graft copolymer C and the refractive index (n_D–C₁) of the core (C1) is less than 0.06, the refractive indices each being determined by the methods specified in the description.

16. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 4, wherein the magnitude of the difference between the refractive index (n_D–C₂C₃) of the overall graft shell of the graft copolymer C and the refractive index (n_D–C₁) of the core (C1) is less than 0.06, the refractive indices each being determined by the methods specified in the description.

17. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 2, wherein the styrenic monomer used is styrene.

18. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 3, wherein the styrenic monomer used is styrene.

19. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 4, wherein the styrenic monomer used is styrene.

20. (New) The thermoplastic molding composition according to claim 5, wherein the styrenic monomer used is styrene.